friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Proposal of buffalo-breeding programme submitted by Punjab

3669. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has submitted a Rs. 4.00 crores project proposal for buffalo-breeding and improving the buffalo breed in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Central Government's aid sought therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Punjab submitted the project proposal in 2000-01 under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. The project has been approved with the total cost of Rs. 2148 lakh; out of which an amount of Rs. 1433.10 lakh has been released so far to the Punjab Livestock Development Board for the implementation of project.

Transferring of funds by NDDB

†3670. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had transferred

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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Rupees Nine hundred twenty five crores and nineteen lakhs from Oilseed Fund to General Reserve Fund in the year 2003;

(b) if so, whether prior permission of Government was obtained for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) and (c) The transfer from Oilseeds Fund to General Reserve Fund was done in accordance with the NDDB Administration of Fund, Account and Budget Regulations and the Permission of the Government was not required to be taken.

MSP for millet

† 3671. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase support price of millet; and

(b) whether Government have issued any directions to the Food Corporation of India for purchasing millet directly from farmers on support price; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops, including millets namely Bajra, Jowar and Ragi, each year. The MSPs for Kharif crops of 2005-06 season were announced in April, 2005. The Government has no proposal to revise the MSPs for Kharif crops of 2005-06 season.

(b) The procurement of coarsegrains from farmers under price support operations is presently being entirely undertaken by the State Governments and their Agencies.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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